

**System and Method for Rule-Pen Based Conversations in
Synchronous Collaborative Environment**

ABSTRACT

A system and method for rule-pen based conversations
5 in a synchronous collaborative environment is presented. A
plurality of users participates in an online collaborative
discussion. A first participant has a comment, such as a
question, and does not know the other participants' skill
sets. The first participant selects a rule pen that
10 includes an associated rule. The first participant's
client includes the rule and a comment in a message, and
sends the message to a server. The server identifies
qualified participants that meet the rule criteria, and
forwards the message to the qualified participants. The
15 qualified participants may modify the rule, and respond to
the message accordingly.